

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. For use in a media tape cartridge reel, a hub and flange
2 assembly comprising:
3 a hub having a first lip and a second lip at opposite ends of the hub;
4 and
5 a flange, wherein the flange is integral with the hub at the first lip,
6 the hub comprises an inner coupling having a hole at the center, and the inner
7 coupling is offset towards the first lip where integrated with the hub.
- 1 2. The hub and flange assembly of claim 1 further comprising
2 a second flange wherein the second flange is joined to the hub/flange at the second
3 lip.
- 1 3. The hub and flange assembly of claim 1 wherein the hub has
2 a thickness between the first and second lips, and the inner coupling offset is in a
3 range of 10% to 50% of the thickness of the hub.
- 1 4. The hub and flange assembly of claim 1 wherein the hub has
2 a thickness between the first and second lips, and the inner coupling offset is in a
3 range of 20% to 30% of the thickness of the hub.
- 1 5. The hub and flange assembly of claim 1 wherein the hub has
2 a thickness between the first and second lips, and the inner coupling offset is about
3 25% of the thickness of the hub.
- 1 6. The hub and flange assembly of claim 1 wherein the inner
2 coupling is hat-shaped having a crown region near the hole and the crown region is
3 substantially flush with the second lip.
- 1 7. The hub and flange assembly of claim 1 wherein the inner
2 coupling is hat-shaped having a crown region near the hole and the crown region is
3 disposed in a direction opposite the first lip and past the second lip.

1 8. For use in a reel, a hub/flange comprising:
2 a hub having a first lip and a second lip at opposite ends of the hub;
3 and
4 a flange, wherein the flange is integral with the hub at the first lip,
5 and the hub comprising an inner coupling having a hole at the center and the inner
6 coupling is offset towards the first lip where integrated with the hub.

1 9. The hub/flange of claim 8 further comprising a second flange
2 wherein the second flange is joined to the hub/flange at the second lip.

1 10. The hub/flange of claim 8 wherein the hub has a thickness
2 between the first and second lips, and the inner coupling offset is in a range of 10%
3 to 50% of the thickness of the hub.

1 11. The hub/flange of claim 8 wherein the hub has a thickness
2 between the first and second lips, and the inner coupling offset is in a range of 20%
3 to 30% of the thickness of the hub.

1 12. The hub/flange of claim 8 wherein the hub has a thickness
2 between the first and second lips, and the inner coupling offset is about 25% of the
3 thickness of the hub.

1 13. The hub/flange of claim 8 wherein the inner coupling is hat-
2 shaped having a crown region near the hole and the crown region is substantially
3 flush with the second lip.

1 14. The hub/flange of claim 8 wherein the inner coupling is hat-
2 shaped having a crown region near the hole and the crown region is disposed in a
3 direction opposite the first lip and past the second lip.

1 15. A method of producing a hub/flange for use in a media tape
2 cartridge reel, the method comprising:

3 providing a hub having a first lip and a second lip at opposite ends
4 of the hub; and
5 integrally forming a flange with the hub at the first lip, wherein the
6 hub comprises an inner coupling having a hole at the center and the inner coupling
7 is offset towards the first lip where integrated with the hub.

1 16. The method of claim 15 further comprising providing a second
2 flange wherein the second flange is joined to the hub/flange at the second lip.

1 17. The method of claim 15 wherein the hub has a thickness
2 between the first and second lips, and the inner coupling offset is in a range of 10%
3 to 50% of the thickness of the hub.

1 18. The method of claim 15 wherein the hub has a thickness
2 between the first and second lips, and the inner coupling offset is in a range of 20%
3 to 30% of the thickness of the hub.

1 19. The method of claim 15 wherein the hub has a thickness
2 between the first and second lips, and the inner coupling offset is about 25% of the
3 thickness of the hub.

1 20. The method of claim 15 wherein the inner coupling is hat-
2 shaped having a crown region near the hole and the crown region is substantially
3 flush with the second lip.